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Environment Department Advises Kamp Kiwanis Water System Users to Boil Water

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau today advised the Kamp Kiwanis water system to issue a "boil water" order to its consumers.

The Kamp Kiwanis water system in McKinley County, located 20 miles south of Gallup on Highway 602, was put on a "boil water" order today due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli*. This order requires that the system owner/operator notify all customers served by that system. Customers of the Kamp Kiwanis water system are asked to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.

The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for *E. coli* in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of *E. coli*. The more dangerous strains of *E. coli*, often associated with contaminated food and water, may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, even death. Children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems are at an increased risk for illness.

The water system has been thoroughly disinfected. The Drinking Water Bureau will continue to assist with trouble-shooting to identify the source of the problem.

The Department of Health will remain on alert for any health effects linked to this water quality issue. Visitors to the camp may call (505) 476-3572 if they have any water-related health concerns.

For more information contact NMED Hydrologists, Diane Barnes at 505-327-7711 or Kevin Cook at 505-841-9457.

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